stretch to avoid city traffic;

(c) if so, by when said work would be taken up and completed; and

(d) if not, in what way Government propose to solve the problem of slow traffic on that stretch of the Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Following measures are being taken up to mitigate the problem of slow traffic on this stretches of NH-1:

(i) widening of roads at km 313 *i.e.* Oswal Chowk.

(ii) widening of roads on either side in Km 315 & 316 near Samrala Chowk.

(iii) Construction of slip roads at Km 317 near Basti Chowk.

(iv) Improvement of the service roads between Km 318 to Km 320.

Cargo handling capacity of major ports

†428. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of existing cargo handling capacity of the major ports engaged where loading and unloading of export and import cargoes are generally carried out;

(b) the details of capacity of existing road infrastructure available for accessing these ports by cargo containers, including the time taken on average for a contrainer to return from port;

(c) whether existing infrastructure of accessing roads to ports are adequate to facilitate projected growth in export-import trade;

(d) if not, the steps contemplated to augment the same, port-wise alongwith time frame therefor; and

(e) the resources required for implementation?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The details of cargo handling capacity of the major ports where loading and unloading of export and import cargos are generally carried out as on 31.3.2004 is as under:—

Sl. No.	Commodity	Total (In Million Tonnes)
1.	P.O.L.	154.85
2.	Iron Ore	51.00
3.	Coal (thermal)	44.20
4.	Fertiliser	4.1
5.	Gen. Break Bulk Cargo	85.80
6.	Container	49.55
	(In lakhs TEUs)	(41.31)
	TOTAL	389.50

(b) to (e) Capacity enhancement of infrastructure including roads is an ongoing process depending on the requirements. So far as the connectivity of the major ports to the roads are concerned, the projects are generally executed by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) except in some cases where small segment of road falling in the port area are developed by the ports on their own. The capacity and condition of the road are of vital importance for movement of cargo from and to the ports. The time taken by the containers for such movement would, amongst other factors, depend on the initial and terminal points of the destination. The details of projects undertaken by NHAI for improving capacity is consolidated in the ANNEXURE. [See Appendix 204 Annexure No.4]

Language used on milestones on roads

†429. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highways Authority of India has suddenly started inscribing details of places in Hindi on milestones in the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.